

# INNU

## Feds to study impact of flights over Nitassinan

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## Students' Society criticized for apolitical stance

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# THE MCGILL DAILY

VOLUME 83 • NUMBER 33

Hey look! It's the nerd herd since 1911

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1993

# Haiti under siege

*Is US intervention inevitable? — a special feature*

BY DAVE AUSTIN

On Thursday October 14, Guy Malary, Haitian minister of justice and aide to exiled president Jean Bertrande Aristide, was assassinated in front of the church Sacre Coeur. Antoine Izmyer, friend and advisor to exiled president Jean Bertrande Aristide, was murdered a month earlier in the same place.

Malary's assassination occurred only two hours after US president Bill Clinton announced that the United States would be stepping up its efforts to "restore democracy" in Haiti, and one day after the UN Security Council voted to reimpose an embargo against Haiti.

While some have applauded the efforts of the United States and the UN, others are skeptical. The US has a history of intervention in the region. In 1915, Haitian president Viburnum Guillaume, a favorite of America was killed by a mob of demonstrators who attacked his residence. His murder was used as a pretext for US invasion, claiming they had to protect US citizens, "restore democracy and order", and "protect American interests". These same arguments are being repeated today in order to justify US/UN intervention in Haiti.

But Haiti has a long history of resistance to foreign domination which can not easily be forgotten.

## Haitian Independence

In 1804 Haiti became the first former slave colony to win its independence after its revolutionaries, under the leadership of the great general Toussaint L'Ouverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, defeated the Spanish, British, and French armies.

Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the father of Haitian independence, was sworn in as emperor of the Republic and began the arduous task of building a country ravaged by fourteen years of war. Haiti was seen as symbol of Black dignity and respect, something all Black

nations could strive for.

Dessalines was the embodiment of the Haitian Revolution. Yet he was assassinated in 1806, allegedly by Mulatto elites, to prevent the implementation of his land and economic reforms, designed to redistribute Haiti's wealth.

Alexandre Pétion, seeking to limit the powers of the king, became the president of the predominantly mulatto south and west. Henry Christophe was sworn in as king of Haiti and, in an effort to subdue the Pétion government, Christophe marched on the South. This commenced fourteen years of grueling civil war.

After the death of Pétion in 1818, Jean-Pierre Boyer, a mulatto, became president of Haiti. He invited U.S. slaves to live in Haiti and encouraged foreign investment, making overtures to the French. He put an end to

a scheme in which peasants were permitted to obtain plots of land for independent farming as this was seen as a threat to the livelihood of the elite class who needed peasant labour.

In 1842 Boyer fled Haiti, escaping a revolt stimulated by charges of corruption, and Herard Demasie replaced him as president. Another revolt put an end to Demasie's rule that same year and Phillipe Guérrier, a Haitian general, was sworn in as president.

This marked the beginning of *la politique doublure*, in which Black Haitians were placed in positions of leadership merely as puppets of the elite. Guérrier was replaced by Louis Pierote after his death in 1845.

By this time two traditions had arisen. The *noiriste* tradition emphasized the importance of Dessalines in Haitian history, recognised the Africanity of Haitians (2/3 of those that fought in the Haitian revolution were born in Africa), viewed the history of Haiti in terms of color conflict - black verses white, black verses mulatto - and were against the persistence of the Roman Catholic church in Haitian religious and political affairs.

Countering myths of Black inferiority perpetuated by European scholars, the *noiristes* pointed to Ancient Egypt as an example of Black Black nationhood and the birthplace of civilization.

In contrast were the mulatto scholars who saw Dessalines as a barbarian not a saviour (Dessalines was ruthless with his enemies), and emphasized the significance of Pétion and Rigaud, two mulatto leaders, in Haitian history and independence. The question of color was down-played, in spite of the fact that it was the mulattos who controlled most of the land and commerce in the country.

Both traditions reflected the particular interests of the two groups. All Haitians recognised the Haitian independence, the role of African traditions in the liberation of Haiti, and that, contrary to Euro-American beliefs, Haitians were by no way inferior to any other group of people.

It is worth noting that, although Haiti

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5...

## Teaching assistants bring proposal to McGill's table

BY JOYA BALFOUR

Teaching assistants at McGill took a first step towards a collective agreement with the university, as the first draft of the agreement was presented to the TA union council last Thursday.

For the past six months, the bargaining committee of the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) has been working on the collective agreement.

Michele Shemie, AGSEM coordinator, explained the purposes of this agreement.

"This is the actual employer/employee contract which will not only define TA's, but define wages, define class sizes, define benefits," said Shemie.

Michael Temelini, spokesperson at the council meeting and member of the bargaining committee, said that the current working environment should not be a model for the collective agreement.

"We [the bargaining committee] didn't necessarily want to reflect the reality on campus," said Temelini. "That was important, but a collective agreement in a way is an attempt to change the reality on campus. So there's a little bit of depicting what is going on, but also this is a way of saying this is what ought to go on."

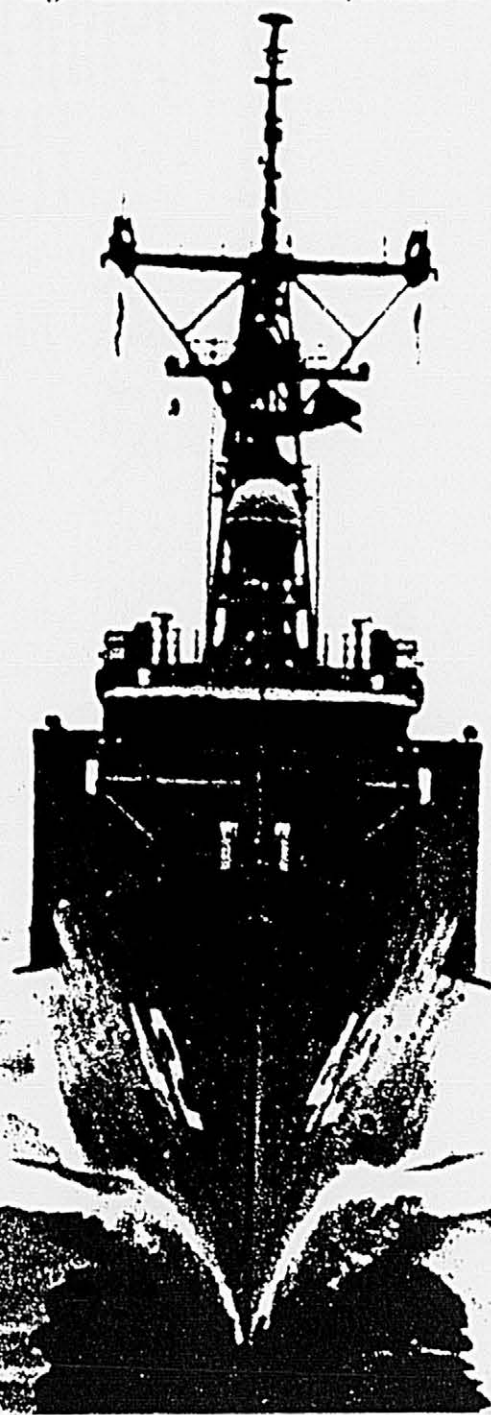
The draft of the collective agreement includes: management rights, definition of members, discrimination and harassment policy, creation of a labour management commission, grievance procedures, and arbitration.

Highlights of the proposed agreement include a maximum 10 hour work week, a full tuition waiver, and an \$28.75 an hour wage in all departments (see sidebar for full details).

However renowned and progressive McGill professes to be, it remains one of the few universities in Canada without a contract with its TAs. Consequently, TAs at McGill are some of the lowest paid among Canadian universities, and disparity in individual departments' salaries is widespread.

AGSEM was formed last winter and is affiliated to the Fédération Nationale

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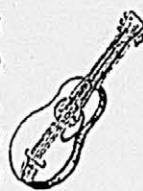
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Unfortunately in the general evolutionary scheme of things this offer is relatively short term, i.e. it ends December 15th, 1993. He also said that he feels students should support him in his efforts to keep his wheels rolling.

\*All other things being equal.

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# Western financial intervention endangers African stability

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

A "re-colonization" process led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is taking over Southern Africa said York University professor John Saul.

Saul spoke last Thursday at an event organized by the McGill Southern Africa Committee. Saul is a long-time activist with the Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa and author of over ten books on the region.

Saul used the phrase "the re-colonization of Southern Africa" to refer to the present economic situation of the region.

"In some ways the World Bank and the IMF play the role that the old colonizers played by dragging these countries back, at gunpoint I might add, as was the case in Mozambique and Angola, into the fold of Western capitalism."

"What we have seen in Southern Africa since 1960, culminating in one way in 1990, is what I've come to call the thirty years war for Southern African liberation," said Saul.

The "thirty years war" included guerilla warfare in countries like Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa. "This [war] was a significant assertion against a system [colonialism] whose time, historically, had long since come."

After the formal wars had ended, many of the movements in Southern Africa began to develop "a more radical fix" on the real meaning of independence, said Saul. He asserted that independence was increasingly

equated with Marxism as a way of repudiating imperialism rather than just the ending of white minority rule.

"The struggle for freedom and for advancing the interests of the majority of the population in these countries is by no means ended."

South Africa is "the last formal expression of white minority rule as morally virtuous," said Saul. The changes in South Africa will have a significant impact on the rest of Southern Africa since the South African regime has financed wars of "destabilization" in neighbouring nations.

"It seems quite clear, in particular when Ronald Reagan became president of the United States in 1980," continued Saul, "that he gave the green light to South Africa to bring these countries [in Southern Africa] to heel." Reagan's agenda was realized, according to Saul, since many regimes were forced to go "cap in hand" to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"I remain absolutely convinced that the factor of destabilization is the crucial variable."

Saul delved more specifically into the case of Angola. "The United Nations (UN) has said that the ongoing struggle and war in Angola is the world's bloodiest conflict...as many as a thousand people are dying a day."

After the South African-backed Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) led by Jonas Savimbi lost Angola's first elections,

they returned to their pre-election destabilization measures. Saul added that "the contemporary situation...makes both Somalia and Yugoslavia look like child's play."

It is still apparent that the white regime in South Africa is continuing to assist Savimbi, Saul noted.

The lack of media attention on Angola has led to virtual ignorance of the conflict in the West.

Saul criticized the UN and the United States for their lack of support for the legitimately elected government in Angola under Eduardo Dos Santos. "The United Nations role in this [Angolan war] has been very dubious indeed."

The focus of the talk then shifted to the current situation in South Africa.

"The balance of power in South Africa is such that the whole transition remains jeopardized by possible violence...and quite possibly compromised within the ongoing negotiations," said Saul.

Referring to South African President F.W. de Klerk, Saul said, "Even though he won the Nobel Prize, de Klerk is not really a peacemaker."

de Klerk's moves towards reforms and multi-racial democracy were not due to a change in thinking but rather an "attempt to legitimate as much as he could, the old South Africa by drawing the ANC in," argued Saul.

Saul attributes the real threat to peace to Inkatha leader Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, who has waged a campaign to oppose the ANC.

Refuting mainstream media reports that most of the so-called black on black violence is ethnically-based, Saul said most of the violence is between groups of Zulus who have different politics.

Despite his support for democracy, Saul was quick to question the ANC's ability to include working class and poorer South Africans in the future. He asserted that ANC President Nelson Mandela is not a revolutionary.

Saul also criticized organizations within South Africa, like the Pan African Congress, who want to reduce the struggle to one of race only.

The task ahead for any progressive movement in South Africa, Saul emphasized, is not easy because "there is every danger that...[the progressive movement] will find itself intimidated, controlled, co-opted, pressured by capital, local and global."

## Defining the teaching assistant

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Michelle Skemie, Co-ordinator of AGSEM at T.A. Union Meeting

des Enseignants et Enseignantes du Québec (FNEEQ) and the Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN).

Officially recognized by the Québec Labour Commission and McGill University, AGSEM collects 2.5 per cent of each TA's paycheck, regardless of if they are a member of AGSEM or not. From this 2.5%, 0.72% is directed to CSN, 0.50% to FNEEQ, and 0.06% to the Conseil de Montréal (CSN).

One of the noted concerns at the meeting was AGSEM's definition of a TA.

According to the proposed agreement, all graduate students assisting a professor by teaching (tutorials and conferences) or by the demonstration of labs is a TA. However, grads who are employed solely for the purpose of marking or grading are not considered TA's by AGSEM and therefore not represented by the union.

Presently, many of AGSEM's defined "markers and graders" are paying union dues. McGill does not differentiate a TA between a marker/

grader, a graduate assistant or a sessional lecturer. Many departments now consider markers and graders as TAs and this is a matter AGSEM hopes to resolve through its planned general assemblies.

AGSEM is planning to hold general assemblies for all TA's in the next two weeks in order to discuss the collective agreement and resolve any anomalies.

"[We want to] let people know they can go to the office, look at the agreement, and see whether they like it or not, see if there are certain clauses they would like to see changed or certain clauses they would say should definitely like to be there," said Shemie. "It's not written in stone yet. Hopefully two, maybe three [assemblies] will adopt the agreement and then we can start bargaining with the university."

TA's interested in obtaining membership in AGSEM can leave a message at 336-2358. Questions concerning AGSEM and the collective agreement should be directed to Michele Shemie at Thompson House, tel. 398-6981.

## Low flying over Labrador

### Government slights Native rights

BY KAREN LOO

Canada's Department of National Defence (DND) will release a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by December, 1993, concerning the effects of low level military training flights being conducted over Innu territory in northern Québec and Labrador.

The previous study, released in 1990, met harsh criticism for its inaccurate environmental findings. It was disproved on 39 counts by the Federal Environmental Assessment Panel.

"The [study] was based on political negotiation. Science was not to be seen," said Peter Armitage, project manager for the Innu Nation Research Unit.

SNC-Lavalin, the Montréal-based industrial conglomerate in charge of managing the DND's environmental research admitted that the EIS was "not a scientific research, but a proposal designed to permit the flights to go on."

Canada's Department of National Defence (DND) designed and implemented its so-called Avoidance Programme in the early 1980's. The goal of the programme is to protect inhabitants of the area, the wildlife, and the environment.

Despite this programme, the government continues to promote intense military aviation training over the Innu lands, known as Nitassinan.

Holland, Germany and Great Britain have been making low flights over Nitassinan since 1979, many of which violate the conditions of the Avoidance Programme according to Innu evidence. These nations are, however, threatening to pull out of their bilateral agreements with Canada if the air space restrictions are not lightened.

In fact, no Canadian planes train over Nitassinan, underlining the Canadian government's willingness to fulfill its NATO agreements on the backs of its "silent" citizens.

At a press conference held on October 28th by Montréal's Centre de Ressources sur la Non-Violence, Charlotte Debbane, a member of the Centre, recalled that low level flights were attempted over Germany's Black Forest in the 1970s. Popular complaint and environmental studies brought the project to a halt, indicating "that ecology and military training were incompatible."

Debbane, also a member of the Committee for Solidarity of Native People said, "Why has training not been halted here? Because it is native territory, we may subject it to conditions which are not tolerated elsewhere."

The training flights are conducted at such low levels and high speeds, that they pose a real danger to the health of the Innu population and to the wildlife on which the Innu depend.

From 1980 to 1990, the number of flights over Nitassinan has risen from 662 flights per season to 5,645. This number may reach 18,000 by 1996.

The "startle effect" of being overflown, something one never adapts to, is associated with heart attacks, hearing damage, and miscarriages.

In addition, the Innu oppose the violent outcome of the training at the Goose Bay base.

Marc Drouin, a member of the Alliance for Non-Violent Action, has spent three months in Sheshatshin. He explained, "During the Gulf War, the commander of the British air force stationed in Goose Bay said that the Royal British Air Force could not have performed its low level bombardment of Baghdad if they had not been able to practice over Innu land."

Bart Jack, a second year Innu law student working at the Innu Nation's main office in Sheshatshin, Labrador, expressed his interpretation of the military training taking place on their land.

"I cannot go to your home to practice murder. You will tell me that you do not believe in what I am doing."

### Main elements of the proposed collective agreement

- maximum 10-hour work week, with cumulative maximum 260 hours per semester
- \$28.75/hr. wage regardless of work or department
- full tuition fee waiver and pay schedule for all TA's
- no more than 50 students for 1 TA (comprising 225-student tutorials/conferences)
- 4 months notice of nature and terms of employment
- definition contents of personal file
- fair method of evaluation (separation of academic and professional performance)
- provision of daycare or suitable compensation for TA's with children



## COMMENT

## Get off your ass! Say no to fee hikes

Too many people don't have a problem with the Québec government's plan to raise provincial university fees to the Canadian average (an increase of \$800 which will in fact put McGill above that average). After all, what's good for the rest of Canada should work for Québec.

But there are other factors to be considered before concluding what seems the obvious — that students should pay the bill for a floundering university system.

According to a study conducted by the Organisation Nationale des Universités, 80 per cent of students are living under the poverty line. In such a scenario, is it logical to ask students to finance more of the university costs? It would be like the government taxing more people on welfare to pay for the health care system.

It can be argued that students should bear the costs, because a university education will enable them to have a good career, and make their way through life more easily than those without a university education.

Since when are university grads the only ones who benefit from the expertise and facilities of a university? Society as a whole benefits from a good education system, particularly the companies hiring university graduates.

We all agree that universities are suffering from underfunding. But hiking student fees is hardly an intelligent solution. Students are far from being an economic dynamo. The government must seriously consider alternate ways of funding university before raising student fees. Taxing companies (whose employees are trained by universities) is a good place to start.

McGill students seem particularly uninterested in this topic. I find it incredible that I was the first to ask Andrew Work, VP External, about fee hikes. If you too are worried, go to your representatives and show them your concern. Don't wait for the \$800 increase on your fees bill.

Marie-Louise Gariépy

## LETTERS

## To the Daily:

Elizabeth Elmwood and Michael Kluk,

Whoa! Stop firing! A tad bit upset are we?

I think your coffee house rebel-arts steps genocide/sterilisation strategies are a little premature, as is your supposition that I took your article as a personal assault.

As I read with horror your plans to intern me, strip me, cut my hair, wash my clothes, give me a bath, and rob me of a sex life, it became obvious that you assumed I fit your description of a "retro-fuck". In fact, I would probably be "labelled" as a conservative (ouch!) dresser, definitely not "aggressive".

You claim I'm a trouble maker. Yeah, maybe. And a dip shit? Not too original, I've been called worse. As to whether or not I take everything I read in the *Daily* seriously, the answer is no, not everything. However, would you have us live in a state of social lethargy, not questioning, opposing, or commenting on what we read and receive through the media and other sources of information?

You most certainly have the right to express yourself. With this follows the possibility of criticism.

I found your article to be deroga-

tory. Comments like, "Except for the local homeless mission, the Arts steps are the only place we know of in Montréal where it's the norm to wear three plaid shirts..." show a complete lack of journalistic integrity by any means. When was the last time you went to a "homeless mission"? Perhaps you would like to visit one and conduct a lecture on good fashion sense. It's probably their foremost concern. Or maybe you would rather intern them?

Kareem Sadiq  
U2 Arts

## To the Daily:

Re: Peter Sellers' letter of October 28 regarding right-handed versus left-handed desks:

Mr. Sellers appears to have made two implicit assumptions in his letter: First, right-handers are so colossally stupid that they can't tell which desk is for them, and which desk is for left-handers; second that all right-handers prefer "right-handed" desks, and all left-handers prefer "left-handed" desks.

Obviously, the first assumption is a corollary of the second, so I will deal mainly with the second, not that I should really have to discuss either. I could make an analogy to sexual preference, but that would probably complicate

After 12 years of civil war the people of El Salvador now face the difficult task of constructing a sustainable peace. Democratization is a central part of this UN-supervised process and international help is essential if elections planned for March 1994 are to be peaceful and fair.

Salvadoreans do not need to be informed about democracy by external actors. Salvadoreans are well acquainted with procedural democracy as they use it daily in their communities and popular organizations.

But after decades of military dictatorship, fraudulent elections, and, during the 1980s, total exclusion of the political left, many citizens are reticent to participate in national-level politics. The difficulty of the voter registration is not encouraging, nor are the periodic assassinations of opposition political activists. These serve as stark reminders of the pre-1992 period in which the military and their ruling allies murdered tens of thousands of civilians for suspected opposition involvement.

The Coalition for Democratic Elections in El Salvador is a pan-Canadian organization that is col-



## HYDE PARK

## El Salvador needs your help

An opinion by Mark Manly, Carolina Berinstein and John Saunders

lecting money and material to support the democratic process. The coalition is working with non-government organizations in El Salvador to sensitize the public on the impact of registering, voting and educating people on the basic procedural aspects of the process. For the March 1994 elections observer missions will be assembled with representatives of the broad range of organizations participating in the coalition. At McGill, these groups include the Center for Cooperation with El Salvador, Open Road, International Relations Society and the Latin America Awareness Group.

McGill University has established firm links with El Salvador. Officially, the university has a co-operation agreement with the University of El Salvador, and student delegations have visited the country for the past three years.

These ties could be strengthened substantially if SSMU participates in the coalition. Earlier this month, a motion was presented to Students' Council to add SSMU's name to the list of coalition supporters. Despite strong arguments in favor of the motion, Council chose not to support the coalition. It seems most

councillors believe that discussing the issue isn't part of their mandate, despite the support McGill and students have expressed for El Salvador. The success of El Salvador's elections is the key component for the country's reconstruction. This unique process may set an example for other polarized nations to follow, but international pressure and assistance are necessary for it to succeed.

A brutal reminder of the fragility of Salvador's peace is the assassination of Francisco Veliz Castellanos, a member of the National Electoral Commission of the FMLN, one of El Salvador's main opposition parties. On October 25, while Canadians participated in an exercise many take for granted, Castellanos was gunned down while taking his daughter to school.

We have a responsibility to ensure that peace and democracy become global realities, not by dictating, but by supporting the efforts of others. Get involved by contacting the groups mentioned above. Don't be afraid of participating in a process essential to the establishment of stability and peace in but one of many nations.

## LETTERS

this letter more than necessary. Instead, I will simply observe that I am a lefty, I prefer "right-handed" desks, and I make no apology for it, nor do I believe that I am unique. Obviously Mr. Sellers does not share my preference in desks, not should he. However, I would submit

that few right-handers would deliberately sit in a "left-handed" desk, if they did not either like "left-handed" desks, or discover that all "right-handed" desks were taken. As you obviously like "left-handed" desks, I would recommend (with all due respect to Mark Davies

and Justin Colvincenzo Letters Oct. 28) that you try to get to class a little earlier, so as to get the seat that you like. Being left-handed does not make certain desks "rightfully yours."

Jeremy Michelson  
U3 Science

**SINCE 1911**  
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**THE MCGILL DAILY**



...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gained its independence in 1804, it was not until 1862 that the United States officially recognised it as a nation. The US had good relations with the French and were worried that if they recognised Haiti, the French would not sell Louisiana to them.

Racism also had a part in the US failure to recognise Haiti. The US feared that if they recognised Haiti they would be sanctioning slave rebellions in America. In addition, racism on the part of Thomas Jefferson, Madison, and others would not permit them to recognise a Black king or president as their equal.

By the late 1900's, Syrians and Lebanese controlled most of the commerce in Haiti, importing British goods. The British, United States, Germany, and the French also had large investments there, serving as pretexts for foreign intervention in Haiti whenever their interests seemed threatened.

### American Invasion

In 1915, the United States invaded Haiti after President Viburnum Guillaume, a favourite of the States, was killed in a revolt against the government. The intentions of the United States were clear. In the spirit of the Monroe Doctrine, the US wanted to use Haiti as a base from which it could further control the entire region. They already had a foothold in Guantanamo but Cubans expressed great reserve concerning the US presence there, and morale amongst US troops was low.

Haiti was also an island which, if controlled, had plenty of resources to be exploited. As is the case today, the U.S. claimed that they were defending the interests of US citizens who made their living in Haiti. They also claimed that they were "restoring order" which, interestingly enough, is the same justification used by both the French and the British when they attacked Haiti during the revolution.

It was only after 19 years of staunch resistance and protest by the Haitian masses and some intellectuals that the U.S. departed, comfortable that it had established a structure favourable to them. One of the major changes they made before they left was in the Haitian Constitution; foreigners were now able to own land in Haiti for the first time since the country's independence.

D. Estime was elected president of Haiti in 1946 and began to institute social reforms, including a minimum wage, and challenged mulatto privilege in the country. Seen as a threat to elites, this *noiriste* was deposed in 1955 and, after months of social disorder, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier was elected president of Haiti in 1957.

Duvalier teased the U.S. by threatening to join the Soviet camp in the cold war, and enthralled the Haitian masses by promising economic reforms and social programs that would change their lot. His emphasis on Haitian pride and culture inspired and gave hope to the masses.

He systematically attacked the interests of the predominantly mulatto elite and much of the mulatto power was transferred to Blacks. Between 1957 and 1971 there was marked rise in the Black middle class and a decline in the amount of power held by the mulattoes.

With the help of the Tonton Macoutes, his personal military wing, he terrorised and eliminated all potential threats to his power, including members of the army, trade unions, students movements, and Voodoo Priests who had supported him during his election campaign.

As was the case with Antoine Kébreau, chief of the army, some were granted government positions in an attempt to neutralise them. However, in spite of Duvalier's nationalist and partisan rhetoric, he granted the US permission to launch missiles from Haiti and voted for the expulsion of Cuba from the Organisation of American States after the Cuban Revolution, proving he was hardly revolutionary.

Both the Lebo-syrian and Mulattoes continued to control Haiti economically.

Francois Duvalier died in 1971, but not before declaring his 19 year old son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, president for life. Jean-Francois, albeit in a far less efficient manner, proved to be just as intolerant of opposition as his father, relying heavily on the macoutes to maintain power. His government was rife with corruption. On February 7, 1987 "Baby Doc" was overthrown by the military after weeks of protest and demonstrations by the Haitian masses.

A 19 member provisional government was formed which was destined to fall apart from the very beginning, as the government included prominent members the Duvalier government who were bent on Duvalier's return to power. In March, the Haitian Assembly voted for a new constitution that placed the electoral process in the hands of a civilian election commission.

Elections were scheduled for November 29 but, only a few weeks before the date, the commission's headquarters were gutted in a fire and it was driven into hiding by violence after refusing to affirm 12 Duvalier associates as presidential nominees.

On election day 34 voters were killed and the ballot boxes seized by the army under the control of General Namphy. In a low turnout January 1988 election, a Professor Leslie Manigat was named president with Namphy the Commissioner in Chief. By June

15, Manigat had placed Namphy under house arrest, prompting troops loyal to Namphy to storm the presidential palace. Namphy named himself president and Manigat fled to the Dominican Republic.

Power changed hands five times before the 1990 elections took place.

### Aristide Comes to Power

When Father Jean Bertrande Aristide was elected president of Haiti in 1990 it appeared that things would take a turn for the better. Aristide won the elections unanimously, sweeping 67.5% of the votes. He was the poor persons choice, the one that would bring "real" democracy to Haiti. Thousands jammed the streets of Port-au-Prince to hear his speeches. In his haven, Cité de Soleil, he was likened to a savior.

Adding to his reputation was his commitment to Liberation Theology, a religious philosophy which compels the clergy to participate in the social and political affairs of the people. Aristide's involvement in politics gained him the scorn of the Vatican, as it has other priests in Latin America. But to the majority of Haitians, Aristide was and is one of them.

Haitian elites were wary the popular Aristide and a number of attempts were made on his life. He evoked a law that raised the minimum wage from \$1.78 US per day to \$2.94, and had plans to improve Haiti's social programs. As has often been the case in Haitian history, those that make the least attempt to redistribute Haiti's wealth are met with staunch resistance.

On September 30, 1991, Aristide was overthrown in a military coup, exiling him, to of all places, Washington.

As stated earlier, many that are skeptical of any form of US intervention in Haiti. Less than three years ago that the world witnessed, under the auspices of the United Nations and the leadership of the United States, the bombardment of Iraq.

Saddam was built up as the "Hitler of the Middle East" who was alleged to have nuclear capacities and one the largest arsenal of weapons in the world. This made him a threat to "world stability". Iraq's military capabilities, highly exaggerated, served as a pretext for the relentless US led military attack that, according to former US Attorney General Ramsey Clarke, cost 350,000 civilian lives!

In Panama the entire army was wiped and thousands of civilians were killed by the US in order to capture one man, Emanuel Noriega, on international drug charges. Little attention was paid to the fact that Noriega was a paid CIA member whose actions had been sanctioned by the US government under George Bush, once the head of the CIA himself.

The US invasion of Grenada was also said to be an effort to, again, "restore order and democracy", yet it was mostly innocent civilians that were killed.

More recently we have witnessed the Peace Mission debacle in Somalia in which, under the pretext, again, "restoring democracy" US and United Nation soldiers have killed dozens of Somali civilians. There has been no discussion of the fact that, Somalia, with its oil reserves that everyone seems to be pretending do not exist, is of significant economic interest to the United States and a number of US oil companies have been vying to control them.

Taking all of the above into consideration, it is not difficult to see why many feel that any form of US intervention in Haiti is bad. Moreover, the US has been using similar rhetoric to describe the

Haitian situation to that used prior to intervention in other countries. Charges by the US (the same US that trafficked drugs to fund contra's in Nicaragua and in Iran) of drug trafficking have been levied the Haitian military.

The recent pull out of US and Canadian officers and technicians took place after two days of what can be described as a well orchestrated demonstration against foreign involvement in Haiti. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, stated that he had "all the reason to believe that we would be well-received...that they [Haitians] would have a welcoming ceremony."

Christopher's statement is strange because, first of all, Haitians have never welcomed foreign intervention. In fact it is forbidden by the Haitian constitution. Moreover, an October 12 *Daily News* report states that the US new of the plans to sabotage the deployment of US and other technical assistance. And, as one anonymous Haitian official stated, "nothing happens in Haiti without their knowledge."

Some feel that the scenes of demonstrators attacking US diplomats at the port of the Haitian capital were choreographed. One scene in particular of a demonstrators attacking a US limousine



## HAITI & the United States

BY DAVE AUSTIN

was replayed repeatedly throughout the media, emphasising that Haiti is dangerous for civilians and US citizens and perhaps US intervention may be necessary.

Statements by US officials themselves have increased the fear of invasion. On October 17, US delegate to the UN, Madelain Albright stated "the US has no interest in military intervention [other than] to protect North American lives and reestablish democracy". Secretary of State assistant, Alexander Watson stated last week that "if there is an invasion, it can be done rapidly, easily, with relatively little loss of human lives". He's likely talking about the lives of US troops.

Why would the US want to invade Haiti anyway? For one, the US has been searching for another military base in the Caribbean from which it can oversee its interests in the region. The US Guantanamo base in Cuba lease expires in 2001 and depending on what transpires in Cuba in the next few years, the lease will likely not be renewed.

Haitians would not willingly accept a US base on their soil as they are well aware of the possible consequences of such a move and, again, it is illegal according to the Haitian constitution.

Aristide, with his mass support is seen as an enemy of the wealthy elites of Haiti and abroad who have economic interests in the country. Antoine Izmerly, a wealthy businessman who supported Aristide was gunned down only a month ago and it appears that the military is carrying out systematic on all prominent businessmen and politicians loyal to Aristide so that, in the event that Aristide does return, most of his political supporters will have been eliminated.

The CIA has recently commenced a smear campaign against Aristide, suggesting that he is a mentally unstable psychopath and unfit to rule a country. They have implied that Robert Malval, presently Prime Minister in Haiti, is a more "stable" choice for president. Malval is a wealthy businessman and it felt that, as president, he would be more favorable to US policy. In fact, in a *Haiti En Progres* interview only weeks before he was gunned down, Izmerly warned that Malval, as US favorite, cannot be trusted.

Will the United States invade Haiti? This is a question which cannot be answered with certainty. Republican opposition to the deployment of US troops has been strong and, after the US disastrous "peace keeping mission" another failure of any sort could be disastrous for Clinton politically.

But, based on the US's record, the possibility is real and the next few weeks will be decisive.



## CUP BRIEFS

## Thefts plague U.S. student papers

Student newspapers across the United States have been hit by a rash of thefts. Last year alone, papers across the country have experienced thefts of tens of thousands of copies from their news stands.

Editors are split over whether these incidents are a legitimate protest by students or an illegal form of censorship.

Referring to the theft of some 6,000 copies of the *Lionhearted*, a paper at Penn State which criticized a feminist column printed in his own paper, editor Mike Abrams of the *Daily Collegian* sees the thefts as an expression of freedom.

Several hundred copies were later found burning on the front yard of the paper's unofficial editor.

While two 1992 graduates of the Penn State school of journalism were subsequently charged with theft in the incident, prosecution of such cases has generally proven elusive.

Most observers are baffled that journalism students would engage in censorship as a form of protest.

"Anyone who could graduate from a major journalism program like the one at Pennsylvania State University and still claim that burning newspapers is the equivalent of printing them is really frightening," said Jeff Muir, program officer for the Collegiate Network, an association of 70 student newspapers in the U.S.

Similar thefts have taken place at the University of Pennsylvania and Southeastern Louisiana State.

— with stories from the *National Student News Service*

## Queens students sink student paper

Queen's University students have delivered a mandate to end funding for *Surface*, the often-controversial student paper.

In an Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS) referen-

dum last week, 55.6 per cent voted against the paper keeping its funding from the society.

David Anderson, production manager, argues that *Surface* was an alternative voice to the main student paper, the *Queen's Journal*.

"We tried to get our message across, that our mandate is to provide a forum for marginalized forms of expression on the campus."

*Surface* has been a lightning rod for controversy at Queen's for over two years. In October of 1991, its editors received death threats after printing a poem that criticized white heterosexual males.

Two months later, the paper again stirred up controversy when it published an all-women's issue with a graphic that stated "You can't rape a 38."

The anti-*Surface* campaign emphasized incidents such as these, as evidence of the paper's exclusion of straight white males.

Lagtapon and Anderson remain hopeful about the future of their paper.

"We're still collecting articles for the next issue — on discrimination at Queens."

— Lori Thorlakson, Kingston (CUP)

## Textbook ban ends after Trent U. appeal

Canada Customs has reversed a decision to bar a textbook from entering the country after Trent University appealed the ruling.

Last month, Canada Customs at Fort Erie, Ont., barred a shipment of *Man Sitting in the Corridor* by Marguerite Duras, saying it contained "sex with violence." The book was to be used in two cultural studies courses.

The university appealed the ruling last week, and on Oct. 28 an embarrassed customs official called Trent from Ottawa to say they'd reviewed the book more carefully and didn't have any problems with it, according to Trent bookstore manager Ralph Colley.

"They think it's all been a terrible mistake," Colley said. "They're here to stop hate literature, not to ban regular literature."

Don Labelle, senior communications officer for Revenue Canada, said Customs usually reviews the decisions of border officials to ban books. But in this case, the shipper sent the shipment back to the publisher immediately after the ruling, so Customs didn't have a copy of the book to review.

Trent professors say this incident shows it's time for Customs to get out of the book reviewing business.

"Shouldn't it be time to separate the question of fruit and vegetables and firearms from literature?", asked professor Zsu Zsa Baross, who ordered the book for her undergraduate course, "The Making of the Modern Body."

Trent isn't the first university bookstore to have shipments detained by Customs. McMaster University, Waterloo University, and the universities of Calgary and Manitoba have all had books barred in the last year.

— Clive Thompson, (CUP)

## EVENTS

Q-PIRG's *Global Cooperation Network*, a group working on food-related issues (environmental, political, and social effects of food and food production) will hold a meeting tonight at 17h00 in Shatner 435. Newcomers welcome.

TNC presents *Better Living* by George F. Walker in Maurice Hall (Islamic Studies Building) October 2 to 7, at 20h00. Tickets \$5 for students, \$6 for others.

McGill Student Health Services presents "Self Care Day 1993". Learn how to take care of your health! Booths on Men's Health, Drugs and Alcohol, Nutrition and More! Shatner 107-108, 10h00-15h00, Thursday Nov. 4.

Quebec PIRG's Publicity Committee will be having one of its fun meetings tonight in room 307, Eaton Building. We have a good time, so join us 18h00.

EASS presents *Sushi and Green Tea Sale*. Live Sushi chef present to prepare your food. Today 11h00 to 16h00, main floor of the main floor.

*The Friends of Haiti* and the BSN present Haitian historian Claude Moise, speaking on "the Developments in Haiti", Friday November 5, Leacock room 232.

Tune into Hersay today at 18hrs. This week's topic: *Women and Jazz*, including and interview with Diane De Kerckove. CKUT 90.3 FM

Come and check out *Ukrainian Dancers* and chomp on some real perogies in the ballroom tomorrow! Come up to the Ukrainian Students' office for more information.

BSN Meeting, games night! Today, from 18h00-20h00. 550 Sherbrooke (corner Sherbrooke and Union) rm 1185.

NDP McGill is having a general meeting today in Union/Shatner 310 at 15h30. All welcome.

The Association for Baha'i Studies invites you to an introductory talk by Mr. N. Natchjavani, on the Baha'i faith, its history, its teachings and its contributions to society. Thursday at 16h00 in Room B-09 of the Union Building. For more information call Kirk at 849-9998.

Culturefest '93 presents: Cultural Exhibition Day, displays and information kiosks of consulates, McGill's student clubs and other organizations. 12h00 to 18h00 in the Shatner Ballroom, Free. At noon and 16h00 an El Salvador Musical Folklore Group, Free. Eval Manigat Quartet, Latin-Jazz ensemble will perform at Gerts' tonight at 20h00. \$3 McGill students, \$5 general public.

Singer / Songwriter TARIQ will be playing with a live band at *The Alley* on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6. Doors open at 21h00. Admission \$2.00

The Taiwanese Student Association will be showing two great Chinese movies on Friday night, November 12 in Leacock 132. The movies start at 18h30, and have English subtitles. Tickets are \$3 for members, and \$4 for the general public. Call 499-0109 for more information.

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# Student Society rejects motion to support El Salvador

## "Divisive issues" plague mandate



Hey! Whaddaya know, it's SSMU.

By CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Students' Society's political role was brought into question again as the result of a defeated motion on El Salvador. The motion, requesting councillors to take a stance in support of the Committee for Democratic Elections in El Salvador, raised some serious questions about Students' Society involvement in political issues.

Students' Society Clubs Representative John Saunders, who brought the motion on El Salvador to council on October 14, believes the debate is connected to the "divisive issues" policy initiated last year.

The policy reads, "SSMU Council will not take a position on external political issues that Council deems to be extremely divisive

among students at McGill University." It was drafted after a dispute in council over whether the Students' Society should support a motion condemning Israel for its deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

At the October 14th meeting, the 'divisive issues' policy was read aloud prior to the debate on the El Salvador motion.

Last year's Students' Society president Jason Prince says he opposed the policy. "I think it's ridiculous," says Prince. "I just don't think that the student association should be afraid to take a stand on issues that affect students as members of the broader community."

Senate representative to the Students' Society Rich Latour, spoke

out against the El Salvadorean motion. "I was not against the principle of the motion," said Latour, but added that council meetings are not the forum to discuss external issues. "We were elected to deal with student-oriented issues...like clubs and finances," he said.

Saunders questions this argument. "It's absolutely ridiculous that a political body [Students' Society] refuses to take political stances." He argues that council's apprehension masks a conservatism and "an unwillingness to deal with these issues."

Andrew Work, vp External, supported the motion and points out that representing Students' Society as a political body is his job. To this extent, he says, the Students' Soci-

ety already acknowledges the existence of external political issues.

Saunders also argues that opposition to the Students' Society taking a stance on external political issues makes certain unjustifiable assumptions. "It [opposition] assumes that you can clearly define what is political and what is not political and that there is something wrong with talking about political issues."

It wasn't the political or divisive nature of the motion that lead Paul Johnson, Students' Society Vice President of Finance, to oppose it. "I see the Students' Society as an organization that exists to provide the tools for many students and groups. However, he believes sin-

gling out one concern is "unnecessary." He agrees that deeming an issue 'political' or 'non-political' is difficult.

Saunders has a simple solution to the ongoing debate about what constitutes a 'political' or 'divisive' issue. He said, "I tend to believe that every issue is political."

Students' Society President Mark Luz, who also supported the El Salvador motion, added to Saunders' statement about political issues. He points out that councillors have to look at issues "case by case."

Senate Board representative Jennifer Shapiro, reasoned her opposition to the motion in a different way. She believed it implied a "hint of imperialism." To her, the El Salvador motion assumed a "lawlessness" within El Salvador and hence, a belief that democracy is the best solution. She says the motion failed to recognize "the Western-based ideology of the United Nations" under whose auspices the Committee for Democratic Elections in El Salvador fell.

"My perspective is extremely relativistic...but I would rather choose to be relativistic than ignore the judgements that we use to represent cultures and other people," said Shapiro.

In response to the argument that the Committee had grassroots support within El Salvador Shapiro says, "I don't know if a grassroots organization is representative of a whole society."

## Concordia courses lack native content

By JENNIFER DITCHBURN

MONTREAL (CUP) — Native content in Concordia courses has stagnated in the past three years, according to Daniel Paul Bork of the Concordia Council on First Nations Education (CCFNE).

"One area that all native students have identified as a need is that they have an opportunity to follow courses with native content," Bork said during a speech at the Hall building last week. "In the past three years we have been working with the status quo."

Concordia offers seven courses of high native content in such departments as political science, women's studies and anthropology.

The CCFNE, formed in 1992, has been studying the possibility of a native studies program or research centre at Concordia. Bork said because of the enormous costs involved in creating a full-fledged program and the short supply of native professors, emphasis will be placed on expanding native content into departments such as history, English, economics and applied social science.

But Bork stressed courses with native content aren't only impor-

tant for native students and most students enrolled in the courses with native content are non-natives.

"People don't clearly understand issues affecting the first nations... We need to change the status quo," said Bork. "We have to target the students and sensitize the student body to create the demand for these courses."

"We still have the need to educate and make strong, effective choices."

Gail Valaskakis, dean of Arts and Science and a chair of the CCFNE, said the council can only promote native content and increase awareness. This year the CCFNE printed a pamphlet listing the courses with native content at Concordia.

"We can try to fill in the gaps in the education by encouraging other departments to look into it," said Valaskakis.

Professor Dominique Legros of the sociology and anthropology department teaches a course entitled "Indian and Inuit Socio-Political Organizations." The 14-year-old course deals with forms of first nations self-government before contact with Europeans. Legros said there should be a course dealing

with native religions because it is the most "distinguishing aspect of native culture."

"The problem is that Concordia promotes Euro-Canadian-centrism to first nations students and not native content to both native and non-natives," said Legros.

There are no university programs in Quebec devoted to native studies. Trent University in Ontario and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College offer native studies programs.

Trent's native studies department was a groundbreaker in 1969. Today it offers a diploma, B.A. and masters program and a Native Management and Economic Development Program. It has included law courses, Northern and Polar Studies, and oral classes in Ojibway, Mohawk and Iroquois culture.

Joyce Miller, a spokesperson for Trent's department, estimates that of 1,061 students enrolled in native studies courses, only 10 per cent are actually natives.

"Politically, Native Studies has found a new place for itself and people have taken a new interest in it," said Miller.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

The Walksafe Network (WSN) and the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill (SACOM) have been authorized by those reporting incidents to release the following information in order to raise awareness and help increase personal safety.

On October 6th at 3:55pm, a woman reported that she was followed through the ghetto by a man on a bike. As the woman reached Park Ave near the Royal Bank below Pine Ave, the man approached her and fondled her breast. She hit him across the chest and pushed him away, at which point he fled. The caller mentioned that there were many by-

standers and was disturbed by their failure to intervene. The man is described as French-speaking, "6'1", 175lbs, in his mid-20s to early 30s, with dark eyes and brown hair" which was short at the front and longer at the back. At the time of the incident, he wore "faded blue jeans, a brown striped sweater and white sneakers". His bike is described as a silver racing bike with straight handle bars.

Anyone involved in an assault or incident is encouraged to report the incident to the Montreal police, SACOM (398-2700) and the WSN (398-2498).

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